

Mariam

Hello, I'm Mariam. Today's story was written as a play hundreds of years ago and is sometimes known as the Scottish play. It involves fighting, witches and a man called... Macbeth!

We begin with three cackling witches who are meeting Macbeth, a Scottish nobleman who's been **out** fighting in a great battle. The witches predict that he will become Thane of Cawdor and King of Scotland and that the descendants of his friend Banquo, will become kings – what a prediction!

Banquo thinks this a joke but Macbeth is excited by the idea and guess what? Macbeth is actually made Thane of Cawdor by King Duncan, as a reward for his bravery. Macbeth's wife, Lady Macbeth, who's back at home, hears of the news and decides to **set out** to help him become King too by any means she can. Firstly, she persuades him to kill King Duncan. Macbeth does this by stabbing him in his sleep. Nobody else knows who committed this murder and so Macbeth is crowned King of Scotland.

So two **out of** the three witches' predictions have come true – but he's worried that the third prediction, about Banquo's descendants becoming kings, will also become true. So, cruelly, he attempts to kill his friend Banquo's son. However, Banquo's son escapes. Then Macbeth is haunted by Banquo's ghost and receives worrying predictions from the witches. Everything swirls around in his head and he is **out of his mind** with worry and fear that the truth about what he has done will **get out**.

Well I'd go mad if all that happened to me. Well things go from bad to worse for Macbeth, as you'll find out if you join me again for part two of the story. See you again soon.

Let's **find out** more about our story of Macbeth. This brave soldier has somewhat unfairly become King of Scotland. He'd been impressed by the witches' predictions coming true but now he's troubled by what they're telling him...

Macbeth now becomes ruthless, killing people who he thinks are a threat. He goes to the home of an important lord called Macduff. He is **out** but Macbeth kills the rest of his family. Now Macduff is **out** to seek revenge, and goes to join Malcolm at the court of the English King, Edward. Malcolm and Macduff decide to lead an army against Macbeth.

Meanwhile his wife, Lady Macbeth, can't stop thinking about the murder of King Duncan – the guilt drives her crazy and she dies but not before giving away her secrets to her doctor. The truth about what Macbeth has done is now **out**.

Now Macduff organises a large army and **sets out** on a journey to Macbeth's castle. There is a long sword fight between the two of them, but finally Macbeth **gives out** a loud cry and his head is cut off. A gory ending but I suppose, justice has been done.

And that's the end of this famous Shakespeare play. I've **left out** some of the smaller details but hopefully you understood this rather gruesome tale. I'll see you again soon for another story. Bye for now.

Definitions

out (C1)

a long way from home

set out (C1)

begin an attempt

out of (B1)

from an amount or number

out of his mind (C2)

unable to deal with things normally because of something bad

get out (B1)

become known

find out (A1)

discover

out (A1)

not at home

out (B1)

determined

out (B1)

available to everyone

sets out (C2)

begins (a journey)

gives out (B2)

makes; produces

left out (B2)

not included

KEY

A1 = Beginner

A2 = Elementary

B1 = Lower Intermediate

B2 = Higher Intermediate

C1 = Towards Advanced

C2 = Advanced